

1SA 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”

The cosmos is remarkably ordered and precise. The planets, stars and moon follow predictable, orderly courses. Even our own planet earth, with its predictable seasons (seed time and harvest – Gen 8:22) hosts a variety of lower life that follow precise unchangeable programs. Then God created man with free will. We change laws, relationships, fashions, prices, technology, medicine, etc... There is nothing wrong with changes as long as they do not violate God's laws.

Hooked on changes. The Athenians discussed nothing but change in Act 17.21 “Now all the Athenians and foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing more than hearing and articulating new ideas.” Humans all like change and progress, but can't agree on how much is good. The young and ambitious always want more. A wise person will be able to judge the effect on both the body and spirit. This lesson deals with the effect of changes on the heart.

PRO 24:21-23 My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: {and} meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both? These {things} also {belong} to the wise. {It is} not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

Effects are difficult to know. It sometimes takes spiritual maturity to make the distinction. Rom 14:14 “I am convinced and fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean (affecting the body, but not the spirit) in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean” (affecting the spirit).

God's Word given by Moses taught the nation of Israel how to avoid spiritual defilement. Deu 12:30 forbid seeking out the idols of other nations. Christ's law teaches us the same thing in the kingdom of Christ. Eph 5:5 "For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Here are some changes that uniquely affect only humans. These affect the human spirit and so are essential changes.

- **First change – Spiritual separation - A child becomes accountable to God. Rom 7:9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. Rom 3:23 "all" of us are foolish**
 - **Foolish men change the glorious God with corruptible idolatry. ROM 1:22,23 "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." Sin = law breaking 1Jo 3:4, child of Satan Rom 7, John 8:44**
- **Second change – Spiritual uniting - Confessing Christ, repenting of sin, old man dying, new birth, separation from sin – change back to God's ways. Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Become child of God, like a child Mat 18:3 "unless you change and become like little children"**
- **Third change (future) – putting off of or separation from the flesh 2Pet 1:14 "I know that this tent will soon be laid aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me." 2Cor 5 "tent destroyed"**

- **Fourth change (future) – Spiritual uniting with our New body at the resurrection from dead. 1Cor 15:42-44 “What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”**
 - **If we die before the return of Jesus, we will leave our body and wait in paradise or torments. At the return of Christ, we will receive a call to be with Him or depart into the punishment reserved for those that hate Him. JOB 14:14 If a man die, shall he live {again}? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. 15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.**

Our lust leads to sin (make foolish changes to satisfy appeals to eyes, flesh and ego - 1 John 2:15,16) We are the ones who change, not God (Jam 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone).

Remember the coming judgment is God's unchanging plan. For instance – Mat 8:18 Jesus commanded to cross over the sea of Galilee. The storm came, they panicked. In Vs 26 the disciples forgot Jesus' command. No amount of elapsed time and no event, whether natural or man-made could change what Jesus said; they were going to the other side. The disciples needed a change of mind.

What path? No one changes without a reason. The majority haven't bothered to ask directions to God. Even many who are zealous for God are like Israel of old: without knowledge Rom 10:1. Act 7:51 “They are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, always

resisting the Holy Spirit". God's ways are foolishness to them 1Co 2:14. They are worldly minded and enemies of God. Jam 4:4 "You adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?" God is opposed to His enemies 2Th 2:11

Those that desire the truth, want the truth more than anything else. Mat 13:44 (treasure, pearl) They are described in JOH 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." They have made the necessary changes. They are friends and servants of God.

We must not change the glory of God.. Moses sang of this in Exo 15:11 "who among the gods is like You?" David sang of it in Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." . God wrath is upon any attempts to change His incorruptible glory. The first three commandments forbid it. He is God alone, He has no form (Spirit), His glorious Name is not to be profaned.

Change and decay (song 74 Abide With Me) is characteristic of this life, but not God. Men believe that change (god of change) explains our existence, we changed from Nothing to creeping things and four-footed beasts to man. Evolution (change) is the god of the unbeliever.

We must not change God's gifts to man according to our own lusts. All of God's gifts are for our good and not to be abused, but we don't accept them as such until we change our ways to His ways. JAM 1:14-17 temptation occurs because we err in our thinking of His gifts. People become vain fools and take God's gifts and change them so that they serve themselves instead of God. Men and women change marriage into a perversion and receive the recompense of their error which is fit. Rom 1:25,26

"Consistency, thou art a jewel" is a common saying. The Lord demands consistency in our service. If you don't bear good fruit as God defines it, you are a bad tree. You need to change. A tree is either good or bad. (Mat 7:18-20, branches John 15:2) What about the things you are entertained by and read and watch on TV? Would you invite the Lord to join you in your activities? Do you sometimes have trouble with the way you talk? Would you talk like that in front of the Lord? (Mat 12:33-37) Change is not possible for some people. The leopard can change his spots as easy as some can do good (JER 13:23).

The Lord told the members of the Laodicean church in Rev 3:14-19 to repent which is to change while there is hope. Rev 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Have you made the wrong changes? Do you need further change?